

February 1, 1963

Professor R. Castaing
Service de Physique des Solides
Boite Postale No. 11
University of Paris
Faculté des Sciences
Groupe 11 - Orsay, France

Dear Professor Castaing:

Thank you for your most cordial letter of January 7. I am of course sorry that a possible opportunity to meet with you was lost, but in fact, as I remember, the flying weather to Paris over that weekend was so bad that it is rather questionable whether I would have been able to make a connection from Milan in any case.

While I do not have any immediate plan that would make it convenient to visit Paris during the next several months, I will certainly keep your invitation very much in mind and look for any occasion that might arise.

Meanwhile, Dr. Levinthal and I would be most grateful for any information that you may have reduced to record form concerning the operating characteristics of your microscope mass analyzer. The Geophysics Corporation of America has recently announced a mass spectrometer in which the ionization is generated by a microbeam of argon ions. The instrument is apparently designed for sensitive analysis of films and surfaces; it is not apparent whether they have designed this instrument to operate in a scanning, image-forming mode. We have asked for more information concerning the development, to which a rather attractive price was attached; meantime I look forward to hearing further from you.

On the side of experimental biochemistry more and more interesting situations have arisen which call for the application of this type of analysis to problems of the replication of deoxyribonucleic acid, problems which lie at the very heart of the basic questions of biochemical genetics.

Yours cordially,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

P.S. Needless to say, we would be most anxious to capitalize on any opportunity to discuss these matters further with you. If, for example, you should be in the United States yourself during the next several months I hope you will allow me to raise with you the question of a visit to Stanford for a day or two.

Castaing